

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 22, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 494

Introduced by Senator Hill
(Coauthor: Senator Hertzberg)

February 26, 2015

An act to add Section 8587.9 to the Government Code, relating to emergency services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 494, as amended, Hill. Emergency services: seismic safety and earthquake-related programs.

Existing law creates, within the office of the Governor, the Office of Emergency Services which, under the Director of Emergency Services, coordinates disaster response, emergency planning, emergency preparedness, disaster recovery, disaster mitigation, and homeland security activities. Existing law requires various entities, including the Office of Emergency Services, through a public-private partnership, to develop a comprehensive statewide earthquake early warning system in California that includes certain features, including the installation of field sensors.

This bill would create the California Earthquake Safety Fund and would require moneys in the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, be used for seismic safety and earthquake-related programs, including the earthquake early warning system described above. The bill would authorize the fund to accept grants, contributions, and appropriations from public agencies, private foundations, entities, or individuals for purposes of carrying out its provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 8587.9 is added to the Government Code,
2 to read:
3 8587.9. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that there is a
4 critical need for a consistent and coordinated approach to seismic
5 safety and earthquake-related programs in the State of California
6 through the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. These
7 programs may include, but are not limited to, earthquake response,
8 recovery, warning, mitigation, planning, research, preparedness,
9 training and exercises, hazard grants, public information, and
10 education. This approach includes the coordination of state
11 agencies and departments that have responsibilities to monitor and
12 respond to, and to recover from, earthquakes and to assist the
13 citizens and businesses in California. In order to facilitate the
14 requirements of Section 8587.8, the Legislature establishes the
15 California Earthquake Safety Fund within the State Treasury.
16 (b) (1) The California Earthquake Safety Fund is hereby created
17 in the State Treasury. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, the
18 moneys in the fund shall be used for seismic safety and
19 earthquake-related programs, including the statewide earthquake
20 early warning system described in Section 8587.8.
21 (2) The California Earthquake Safety Fund may accept grants,
22 contributions, and appropriations from public agencies, private
23 foundations, entities, or individuals for purposes of carrying out
24 the provisions of this section.